

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## *An invitation to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to develop project applications for FY2008 Section 319, Water Protection Fund and/or Watershed Protection Fund Financial Assistance*

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts are invited to submit project applications for funding from the Section 319 program, the Water Protection Fund (WPF) and/or the Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF). While Section 319 and WPF funding may only be used to address nonpoint source related water quality concerns, WSPF funding may be used to address a variety of natural resource concerns, including water quality, flooding, erosion control, etc. The Section 319 program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The WPF and WSPF are administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS/DSC). Because of similar goals and procedures, DNR and DSC use a single application process for these three funding programs.

In past years, an option of submitting a two-page pre-application was available. However, with the support provided through the Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant process and the availability of the Regional Coordinators to assist with project development, pre-applications are no longer being accepted. It is strongly recommended project sponsors work with the Regional Coordinators to assure proposed projects are compatible with the requirements of the Section 319, WPF and WSPF programs. In addition, DNR/NPS staff are available to discuss the potential for funding of proposed projects on an individual basis.

Please note there is no form to fill out for a project application. However, there is guidance regarding requirements of the three programs and information that must be included in project applications. **Please carefully read all guidance, as there have been significant changes from past years. Specifically:**

- **Targeting Impaired Waters:** Of the Section 319 funds Iowa receives from the US Environmental Protection Agency, roughly half will be targeted for waters included in the final FY2004 Section 303(d) or the final FY2006 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters submitted to EPA for approval (category 5a and 5b of Iowa's Integrated Report). In addition, priority will be given to applications addressing a waterbody for which a TMDL has been completed (category 4a of Iowa's Integrated Report) or is currently being developed. A link to the waterbodies eligible under these criteria can be found in Attachment 6.
- **Measuring Load Reductions:** EPA is requiring states to improve the performance and accountability of the Section 319 program. Those projects receiving FY2008 Section 319 funding will be **required** to provide additional data as part of the annual reports to measure reductions in pollutant loading, specifically sediment and nutrients, resulting from BMP implementations. Appendix 9 provides additional guidance regarding this requirement.
- **Watershed Based Planning:** EPA is requiring projects receiving Section 319 funding to complete a watershed-based plan, whether they are designed to protect unimpaired waters, restore impaired waters or both. The majority of the criteria required in a watershed-based plan are currently required in Iowa's Water Quality Project Applications; however, we are providing information in Attachment 10, so all applicants understand the requirements as stated by EPA.
- **Targeting Priority Areas:** DSC is under increased scrutiny by Iowa legislators concerning the beneficial water quality impacts of the WSPF and WPF programs. Projects that have completed watershed assessments, with identified priority areas and have demonstrated a commitment to implementing BMPs within the priority areas will be given priority for funding. In addition, projects that receive funding through WSPF and WPF programs must provide load reduction data associated with the practices installed with funding provided by these programs.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** EPA is now requiring that water quality monitoring be a component of all new watershed-based projects targeting impaired waters. The DNR Section 319 program has set aside funding for water monitoring and will work with new watershed-based projects to develop a water monitoring plan. Therefore, applications for new watershed projects on the (303d) impaired waters list do not need to include a budget for water monitoring, as this component will be conducted by DNR.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

The following dates must be met for a project to be considered for funding:

- Applications due to DSC by 4:00 pm on ***April 1, 2008***;
- **16 hard copies are required along with one electronic copy on a Compact Disc (CD).**

**WHERE TO MAIL:**

Applications should be sent to:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Division of Soil Conservation  
Wallace State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
attn: Karen Fynaardt, Division of Soil Conservation

**WHO TO CONTACT:**

Please direct questions regarding this invitation to any of the following:

- **Division of Soil Conservation (WPF or WSPF questions):**  
Jim Gillespie, Bureau Chief, Field Services Bureau 515-281-7043 [jim.gillespie@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:jim.gillespie@idals.state.ia.us)  
Jeff Tisl, Regional Coordinator (Northeastern Iowa), 563-422-6201, [jeff.tisl@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:jeff.tisl@idals.state.ia.us)  
Vince Sitzmann, Regional Coordinator (Southeastern Iowa), 515-242-6008, [vince.sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:vince.sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us)  
Bob Waters, Regional Coordinator (Western Iowa), 712-243-2913, [bob.waters@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:bob.waters@idals.state.ia.us)  
Applicants are strongly urged to contact Jeff Tisl, Vince Sitzmann or Bob Waters for assistance in developing or preparing an application.
- **Department of Natural Resources (Section 319 questions):**  
Steve Hopkins, NPS Program Coordinator, 515-281-6402 [stephen.hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephen.hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Kyle Ament, NPS Project Officer, 515-242-6196 [kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Rachel Glaza, NPS Project Officer, 515-281-8158 [rachel.glaza@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:rachel.glaza@dnr.iowa.gov)  
DNR NPS program staff are available to provide assistance to applicants with regard to any questions they may have about the Section 319 program and/or project application development.
- **NRCS (General water quality project questions):**  
David Beck, Planning Leader, 515-284-4135 [david.beck@ia.usda.gov](mailto:david.beck@ia.usda.gov)  
Thomas Oswald, Soil Conservationist, 515-284-4135 [thomas.oswald@ia.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.oswald@ia.usda.gov)

**APPLICATION MATERIAL:**

Following is a list of the application materials available for your reference. They may be found at DSC's web site: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/waterquality.htm>

If you cannot download or have difficulty accessing this information, please contact Mike Franklin, DSC Field Services Bureau, 515-281-6145.

- Attachment 1: Brief Guidance for Developing Project Applications for FY2008 Section 319, WPF and WSPF Programs
- Attachment 2: Required Application Cover
- Attachment 3: Outline for Iowa Water Quality Project Applications
- Attachment 4: General Budget Sheets
- Attachment 5: Detailed Budget Sheets (blank budget and example budget) (open in excel)
- Attachment 6: Information About the Section 319 Grant Program, and a link to the Section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies and the TMDL program
- Attachment 7a: Information About the Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF) Program
- Attachment 7b: Information About Water Protection Fund (WPF) Program
- Attachment 8a: Section 319/WPF Project Application Evaluation Criteria
- Attachment 8b: WSPF Project Application Evaluation Criteria

- Attachment 9: Accountability, Measuring Results and Reporting
- Attachment 10: Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan

#### **APPLICATION PROCESSING:**

The following is an approximate time line for the processing of project applications:

- Applications Submitted – April 1, 2008
- Applications Reviewed – June 2008
- Notification of Application Status (Tentatively Approved or Denied) – July 2008
- Section 319 Applications Submitted to EPA for Approval – July 2008
- Funding Made Available for Projects Selected for WPF and/or WSPF Awards Only—July 2008
- Section 319 Applications Approved by EPA – September 2008
- Section 319 Funds Awarded to DNR—November 2008
- DNR Environmental Protection Commission Approves Project Contracts—January 2009
- Funding Made Available for Projects Selected for Section 319/WPF/WSPF Awards Combined – February/March 2009